

Technology Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2008

The Technology Advisory Committee met on January 10, 2008 in City Hall Council Chambers.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:25 a.m.

II. Roll Call

☒ Chris Price – Chair

☐ Mark Farr

☐ Oakel Hardy

☒ Mike Jamerson

☐ Mark McHolland

☒ Georgia Miller

☒ Steve Baker

☒ Jim Hartsook

Invited Guests:

Other Attendees:

Steve Ruble (City Engineer), Brent Engle (InfoComm), Tony Walton (Smithville), Tom Heller (Interested Member of the Public) and Stan Gamso (Counsel)

III. Open Issues

a) Smithville Update:

Tony Walton presented Smithville's monthly check to the chairman. He also reported that they have connected TLS and Ivy Tech to the system. They are presently awaiting IUPUC's connection to the system, but that is contingent upon IUPUC's ability to receive funding which is expected, however, in January.

Tony also advised that they are working with Columbus City Utilities to do a joint build, that's expected sometime in April of 2008.

b) Right-Of-Way Ordinance Discussion:

Steve Ruble, city engineer, appeared before the Committee and advised that he had some conversations with Jim regarding ideas and needs for potential right-of-way ordinances.

Steve reported that there would be benefits to having a right-of-way ordinance given the growth of the conduit system and city improvement projects as well as implementing a process with respect to installations of conduit and/or fiber in various projects throughout the city. All this may have the effect of reducing both installation costs and long-term maintenance costs.

Steve advised the Committee that it would be possible to develop either a simple or a very complex right-of-way plan. However, development of a complex plan would give rise to increased costs and restrictions being imposed upon developers. He thought it should be a consideration that this Committee should include in its evaluation and analysis.

Steve also reported that the City Engineer's office is required to examine various construction and expansion projects throughout the community. As such, it may be possible to develop a very simple plan with respect to use of the rights-of-way that could be considered on a case-by-case basis. Cost considerations then could be more specifically defined and/or tailored to the respective project.

The Committee members discussed with Mr. Ruble the pros and cons of specific plans, and the members agreed generally that discussions were needed both among themselves and the respective city entities as well as various developers, City Council, and other respective stakeholders as to the effect of any cost structures being imposed by way of a right-of-way plan.

Mr. Ruble also noted that the City has a 30-year roadway plan, and most elements of the plan generally take five years before they can be implemented. But he did see value in the TAC examining future projects to determine the needs and/or availability and possibility of expanding the conduit system as part of future implementation.

A general discussion ensued regarding policy and periodic meetings with the City, the City Engineer's office, City Utilities and a member(s) of the TAC to offer advice with respect to expansion of the conduit and achieving the goals of the TAC.

The Committee generally agreed that having a right-of-way plan that was general in nature had value. Therefore the Chairman asked Mark Farr and Mike Jamerson to arrange to meet with the City Engineer's office, City Utilities, and Smithville to work out the frequency of meetings and contacts with the respective City entities. Once that's been determined, the TAC could at least be made aware of future expansions and development programs and can offer input with respect to the conduit expansion and needs for both installation and maintenance.

c) Conduit Expansion

The Chairman noted that at the last meeting there was a request made by Smithville to be able to commence expansion of the existing conduit without the

necessity of seeking a formal RFP and applying through the public bid process. It was Smithville's intention to have more customers connected to the system that will ultimately benefit the City's development plans with respect to the conduit. At the conclusion of each expansion leg, Smithville would ask the City to purchase the newly installed conduit.

The Chairman had previously asked counsel to examine the possibility and to report at this meeting.

Council reported that in conversations with the City Attorney, and in examining the respective law on the subject, it was generally agreed between counsel for the TAC and counsel for the City of Columbus that all future expansions of the conduit system must be conducted through a formal public bidding process. Also, with respect to an effort on Smithville's part to seek approval of either the Board of Works or City Council for expansion of the system, the City Attorney was concerned that such expansion would have the net effect of placing Smithville in competition with itself under the present contract that it has with the City of Columbus. He did not think the Board of Works or City Council would look favorably upon that prospect.

d) Wireless RFP

The Chairman noted that they had met with Duke Energy stakeholders and asked Duke Energy for possible use of the light poles as transmission sources. Duke Energy's initial response was that they wanted to charge the City of Columbus for usage of poles as transmitting sites.

The Chairman asked counsel to examine Duke Energy's placement and use of poles and/or any legal foundations or relationships that Duke Energy may have and/or be bound by with respect to the City.

Brent reported that he has identified a number of people in Beech Grove who would be willing to meet with members of the TAC to discuss their wireless service and their program. He noted that a road trip to Beech Grove could be arranged if the Committee decided who on the TAC should go.

Brent requested addresses for the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation properties and Columbus Regional Hospital properties from Mike Jamerson and Steve Baker, respectively, so that those sites could be included in the overlay map that he is developing for the Committee.

e) Fiber Extension to City Utilities

Oakel Hardy was not in attendance at this meeting and therefore no update was available.

f) Governance Update

Mike Jamerson reported that he, Jim, Oakel and Georgia met on Monday, January 7, to define concepts of the role of the Communication Information Technology Executive position and the type of individual who would fulfill that role. Mike presented a handout to the Committee members that set forth their rationale for the position and the expected outcome and results. There was general discussion among the Committee members with regard to the issues in the selection for this position.

The governance committee then reported that their next step will be to meet and to try to refine their work and present same in a more narrative form for the Committee at the next monthly meeting.

g) Update on InfoComm Contract for Wireless RFP

The chairman reported that the contract for InfoComm had been extended and approved by the Board of Works. There was nothing else new to report.

IV. Approval of Minutes from Prior Meeting

After a review of the December meeting minutes, there were no comments or any changes to be made. Georgia moved to approve the minutes, and Mike seconded. Upon unanimous voice vote, the December minutes were approved.

V. New Business

a) Counsel Fees

Counsel advised that the Committee could not take action on his claim as there is no existing contract at present. It had been counsel's hope that the contract could be submitted for the Committee's review and approval prior to this meeting; however, he is still awaiting a response from the City Attorney. The Committee therefore will review council's fees and prospective contract at the next meeting.

b) Other Business

There was no other business reported by any Committee members.

VI. Adjournment

By unanimous voice vote the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley A. Gamso